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A LIVING

And How to Make It the Fundamental Problem of Life Since the Human Family Came Into Existence

(By Channing Severance.)

The fundamental problem of life is how to make a living, and there has never been any other since the forces of Nature produced the human biped, and he began the endless struggle for existence. Back of this problem most of the crimes find birth for which jails are built, and it has also been a great factor in causing insanity and suicide. Work and worry have worn out and cut short the lives of large numbers of human beings; and from its attendant melancholy, depression of spirits and general disgust with life, has induced much mental misery and many physical ailments.

The great majority of mankind have always lived in a state of uncertainty, and as the old saying has it, "one hand to mouth." Without homes, or personal property enough to insure them against want if long idle, they have lived and struggled under social conditions that were always unjust, partial and full of privileges for the few. The reason for this is found in the fact that shrewd and selfish men with superior intellects, have made laws and enforced them for personal gain and benefit. Under statute laws the greatest of evils have been generated and permitted to flourish; and to such laws alone we trace the great inequalities of wealth and the extremes of poverty and riches.

One of the greatest wrongs that statute laws have connected with our boasted civilization has been and is in the private ownership of land, for it has placed in the hands of a minority of our race the power to keep the great majority from owning or having the use of any without paying tribute to them. Land must be included in the natural rights of all men, the same as the air they breathe; for that which is indispensable to life must belong equally to all while here to need it. As it is impossible to get off the earth while living, one must have a dwelling room and a place to make his home, even if he does not till the soil for a living. Yet untold millions are denied this natural right until they have fought and paid for it. How many people who never have a home of their own might have one if not compelled to buy the land on which to build a habitation of some kind? In all cities there are thousands of vacant lots which the owners do not live on and never intend to use; and yet, through the power of a statute law resting on unjust statute laws, they prevent those who would gladly make homes therefrom so doing, because they are unable to pay the price demanded. Such things are a disgrace to civilization, and should be denounced and condemned until such a damnable wrong is abolished. There can be no such thing as equal opportunities in this world while private ownership of land exists, for no person should be allowed to control or monopolize one foot of land that he does not own or occupy; and the establishment of such a condition in society would do more to remove poverty and lessen crime than any other one thing.

Again, the monopoly of natural resources, with the wage system to compel the worker to give his employer the largest part of his productions, is another grievous wrong and an additional cause of poverty and crime.

Statute laws which uphold these things and make them possible

are what Socialism is trying to change and destroy. So when I see certain Freethinkers jumping onto Socialism, and denouncing Socialists as fools or crazy mortals, I can but think that facts in large numbers go to prove they rightly deserve the appellations they apply to Socialists. These flip throwers of invectives and words that embody nothing but general condemnation of Socialism, have no definite or well-defined objections to offer; and the good details in condensing it, as they throw out their bitter opposition, cheap wit, and unreasonable statements. They know as well as anybody how rotten corrupt, and unjust our social and industrial conditions are, and yet they jump into the path of progress to fight Socialism without presenting any remedy for existing evils, or giving the basic principles of Socialism serious consideration. Socialism would destroy private ownership in land, and give every one equal opportunity to possess it. If such a thing would be wrong, why don't they jump onto this feature of Socialism and show where?

A co-operative commonwealth where members of all abstained from the production of wealth, instead of some captain of industry like Carnegie, Morgan and Rockefeller, is also the object and the aim of Socialism. If such a thing is wrong, why don't the opponents show wherein, if able?

These two things embody the main part of Socialism, and if any one is disposed to fight it, they must fight to prevent the abolition of the private ownership of land and the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth.

Are they prepared to do this? If so, why don't they, and reveal their assumed superiority in logic and arguments. Either we have reached the limit of progress or we have not, but the opponents of Socialism seem to think we have not; for they have no improvement to offer on the present system. We are not sure to become an empire as the flight of time is to continue; and their ultimate results can be foreseen by simply reviewing history.

There are only two things now being advocated by thinking men that can prevent this—Socialism and Anarchy. The first would improve the government and make it for the first time in history a pure democracy; the second would bring chaos and confusion and end in a despotism, with the usual one man power at last.

Socialism is feasible, practical and desirable; anarchy is visionary, impractical and undesirable, for millions of human beings trying to exist in social relations under the theories of philosophical anarchy, (that every one will do right by his associates and practice all the virtues if statute laws are done away with) is the limit of utter nonsense. As people cannot think alike, and do not abolishing all laws to govern human conduct would surely fail to produce expected results; and disagreements would certainly occur between individuals and communities that would result in laws or some kind of rules that could be enforced, to settle them.

Society with its millions of members is a complicated affair, and laws of various kinds are needed to insure and preserve liberty for the individual. Nothing before the world in the shape of ideas contains such possibilities for good and beneficial results as Socialism; and the natural trend of general events is in that direction.

Socialism is pure democracy, the only rational method yet discovered or advocated that would give equal opportunities to all men in the struggle for existence. It has no stronger opponent

A SOUL

Belief of Majority in One Goes for Naught When Weight of Wisdom is With the Minority

(By Otto Wettsstein.)

The belief in the dual nature of man is almost universal. Only a comparative few repudiate this popular belief in spite of its apparent charms and attractiveness, and, however, is no argument in its favor.

Intellect does not increase, even in vast aggregation. As the clear soprano of the prima donna soars far above the sea of voices comprising the chorus, so the colossal intellects of a Humboldt or a Spencer tower far above the aggregated intellect of the uneducated millions of the common people. Therefore, the intellectual product of thousands of gifted minds—ignorances can be no greater than the wisdom of one and an intellect multiplied ad infinitum ever remains 0.

Therefore, the fact that vast majorities often in independent spirit of a soul existence goes far enough to prove its reality especially when we consider the fact that the minority who deny such a theory aggregate more wisdom, knowledge and logical acumen than those affirming it. Our greatest men of science repudiate the belief, while every plantation darky and Digger Indian fervently believes in it. Hippocampus and scalps hereafter the same as here.

This proves that the belief is not of heredity and sentiment nor the result of philosophic research. It is born of the desire to live, of vanity and egotism. Then the church has ever utilized it to sway power and authority. Thus it has become universally popular, and, therefore, arises from its enticing nature, offered to its devotees fraternity, social influence, votes, money, etc., while all those repudiating it are placed under the ban of social ostracism and persecution.

Considering then the agencies which uphold this popular belief it becomes apparent that its denial must be the result of unfliching honesty and individual research. There is no motive thinkable why any sane man should pronounce himself as to his belief, while yet entertaining such a belief; though there are millions of skeptics still wearing the cloak of piety for policy sake. As long as the church indirectly offers premiums for belief and imposes penalties for disbelief, the evidence of the few denying the popular belief far outweighs that of the majority against it.

Thus, while all beliefs should be respected, skepticism most of all should be honored, because only purest motives can lead up to it.

If we attempt to grasp, analyze and comprehend the idea intended to be conveyed by the word "Soul" or "Spirit," human reason and understanding falls short. The stomach digests food, the heart forces the blood through his system, the lungs supply him with air. The brain through the medium of the senses and nerves, enables him to think, hear, feel, and see, and in connection with the total aggregation of his complex, intricate, magnificent organism, completes a machine which in its totality and perfection only in the source of infinite intelligence. The sum-total, this composite whole, alone IS MAN. Annihilate him, and his functions, both physical and mental, cease also. Mind is generated by the body as electricity from a battery.

Thus body and mind exist as cause and effect in man, but in lesser degree in the lower brute creation also, down to the primate cell and may be, in infinitesimal degree in each atom of inorganic

be resolved into its component parts.

What is man? Divested of the physical organism, what remains to shape the form or constitute the organs and nervous system, producing the functions of man? Is not the totus ensemble composed muscle and nerve necessary to make him a man? Could a man be a man, and all it implies, without flesh, blood, bone, stomach, lungs or brain? Can we think of a man without these or of a man existing now, who as yet is not conceived and born? Can a man be a man before he is a man? If not, how can a man still exist when every particle which made him a man has been laid under the sod and been absorbed by the soil, plants, fluids and air?

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Thus body and mind exist as cause and effect in man, but in lesser degree in the lower brute creation also, down to the primate cell and may be, in infinitesimal degree in each atom of inorganic

matter. But owing to man's superiority, which some brutes necessarily must copy, we should not seek to exempt him from the immutable law of nature, which decrees with inexorable authority, that "Dust thou art and to dust thou must return." "Man has no pre-eminence above the brute." Whatever has a beginning must end, and the material now composing our bodies is needed to secure the eternity and immutability of the universe.

But in spite of these self-evident facts, the school of Spinoza, of Leibnitz, of Hegel, and even that man is an exception to the usual course of nature, and that a miraculous and immortal existence is his destiny. That all this physical perfection is useless and superfluous; that when the once proud and noble man has not as much organic reality as an ostrich, that yet the identical man, possessed of identical outline and functions, can exist during all eternity as well without this physical body as with it. God is supposed to be the Creator of man; in fact, man as the crowning work of God, is pointed out in evidences that such a being could not evolve from lower forms, but absolutely necessitated a Creator. Yet, did he ever occur to you that what a waste of energy it was on the part of God to make man, if during all eternity hereafter we can live precisely as well without this body as with it? What use to endow his children with so much many dignity and comely beauty for a few paltry years, if superfluous hereafter?

If spiritualism is true, the startling miracles affront us that nothing—absolutely nothing—possesses identical functions and potencies as the grandest organism ever evolved by nature. Because it is a fact, which cannot be disputed, that each and every particle which composes man is laid under the sod, and nothing remains.

La Grange, Illinois.

CHRISTIAN SECRETS.

(By Norman Murray.)

As I have strong hopes of seeing the Rev. Mr. Whately adorn the Rationalist platform as he is now, indirectly, materially helping the spread of Rationalistic ideas, quite unintentionally on his part, I add, I am going to give him the words and secrets of Rationalism and Christianity, and show him that with all his riches I must admit, but the knowledge of humanity he will acquire by getting out side Christianity and looking at humanity from that standpoint, as I have done for many years.

Though the disadvantages of devoting a good deal of time to learning theories that one must discard in after life, after he discovers the truth, are many, still they are not without profit.

A practical, personal knowledge of Christian experiences is one of the most useful assets that a Rationalist propagandist can have. This experience enables him to see through the delusion that the Christian is under, without accusing him of intentions.

When a man who has been fully possessed with the Christian superstition as I have been at one time, gets outside of it, he finds himself in an entirely new world without moving away from the scene of his former activities. That in itself is no small gain in (Continued on Page Four.)

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CHARLES CLINTON MOORE.

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The Blade urges upon its readers to contribute articles for its columns. The poet has said "a true man's work of pur-
est joy sereneth the dark, unfeasted
caves of ocean bear," and the same
is true of your kind. Especially do we re-
quest articles from our younger readers.
You are not yet a sinner, a Wilson, a
hooker, a Laud, or a Watstein. Very few
of us are. But you certainly can say
something that will be of interest to your
fellow-workers. These great men had
their beginnings. Let us tell the readers
of the Blade what you are doing and
what you are thinking.

IS THE MIND IMMORTAL?

First let us determine what the mind is. Is it material or is it spiritual? The mind like the body, is capable of growth or development. The infant coming into the world, knows little or nothing. As soon as its eyes are open, it begins to look around and see things and develop ideals. As its mind grows, it demands ideas (mental pictures) to de-
velop mind, as well as food to nourish and build up the body. The mind is never at rest but is continually at work constructing ideals. (Ideas are mental images that pass through the mind, while ideals are those ideas that are cherished or worshipped.)

Even during sleep the mind is active and in a working hour. We do not remember what passes through our mind when "sound asleep" because the brain, like the other parts of the body, is at rest, the same as when dead. We have read where persons have been, to all appearance, dead for twenty-four hours or more, "sus-
pended animation," and came back to life and described their thoughts while in that state; how they "saw preparations being made for their funeral, etc." Jesus, no doubt, understood what death was, when he said, "The maid is not dead, but sleepeth." He said of Lazarus "He sleepeth; and I go that I may awaken him out of his sleep." When he got

there, he had been dead four days, but, when Jesus "cried with a loud voice," he came forth, bound hand and foot. Jesus said, "Loose him and let him go." We have access to the external world by our five senses. The eye is the principal medium by which we gain all our knowledge, but the ear is also a medium of acquiring all our ideas of music and the beauties of harmony is sound. That these ideas which occupy the mind, just as furniture, pictures, etc., do in a house, are not of material substance, like the grey matter of the brain; is evident from the fact that they do not require space as do all material substances, for if they did, a man with a large education (collection of ideas) would necessarily have a large head in order to contain it, but such is not the case. Some our most learned men and most fluent speakers have small heads, and many men with large heads know but little. Then, if the mind is not as material substance like the brain, it follows that it is not fed with material like the body, which is perishable, and has to be replaced but it is fed with that which is indestructible, which has no beginning nor end. "There is no new thing under the sun" is a true saying. All the ideas or intentions of man have existed before, and are only manifested through the medium of love, like the love of father, mother, brothers and sisters, his wife and even his own life. Otherwise he cannot "be so dimpled." This is what the scriptures say and if they don't mean what they say how in the name of common sense are we to know what they mean.

Christ is alleged to have said that his mission on earth was to bring salvation or division, to set the fathers against the sons, the sons against the fathers and so with every member of the family and to tear up domestic peace in general. If this is true I do not wonder at his short stay among civilized people. He ought to have been put out of the way sooner, and thus stop the dangerous doctrine which has caused more sorrow and trouble than all else put together. The history of the past ages where faithful followers have tried to continue their master's mission attest the truthfulness of what I say.

They are facts that all the apologetics in the world cannot erase. They are menaces in the way of Christianity. Thinking people are not rushing headlong over these facts to get into the church. The church still succeeds in scaring a superstitious soul out of hell into heaven (but) but they are getting fewer every decade. There is a better way to travel the rough road of life than to be tormented forever with visions of devils, demons, hell and damnation with a very slim chance (one in a million) to escape.

I'm glad that I've found sweet liberty in doing good wherever possible without sparing hell and its impes because I don't believe all the fables taught by the church. I'm not worrying over the subject of a future life. The present one is all that I can take care of and in fact it is all the one that I really know anything about. There may be one, I don't know, but I feel sure that the more pleasant we make this one the better off we will be now and through eternity. We need to get in harmony with nature and evade every trace of the aged superstition which curses the world today.

Now all the foregoing incidents and thousands more are supposed to be real results of faith, but the time they are alleged to have transpired is so remote that not a shadow of evidence, either historical or scientific remains today to substantiate such claims.

Faith is the only means by which a same man or woman can grasp the doctrine of the bible. There is no self-evident facts to prove their integrity. In fact self-evident facts could be produced to establish the doctrines of the bible as truth that very fast would destroy the basis of the same.

Men would not be required to "live by faith" if self-evident facts are available. They could consider the facts in the case and live by sight. If there was a single indisputable fact, establishing the immaculate conception of Jesus, it would be no longer necessary to rely on faith. Facts would replace faith. To believe in the bible story of Jesus one must do so without a "shade of a shadow" of evidence, either natural, scientific, reasonable or

sensible. Faith or belief is its own evidence.

"Faith is the evidence of things hoped for and not seen." Faith is believing a thing without a particle of evidence and swearing the thing is so because you believe it. The kingdom of god is the only tribunal in the universe that requires its subjects to believe without good substantial evidence.

Coming down to our own time and generation we are at a loss to find any trace of the "lost art," except the old stale reports and myths of the bible.

I challenge the whole of christendom to produce the evidence of the possession of the minutest particle of that which must save all who are saved. Snakes and arsenic and poisons of all sorts lose their deadly properties by a very light application of faith. Yet when christians are taken instead of depending upon the sure "antidote" to call on a skilled physician, I can see where they are wise in this but fail to see their consistency.

If christians were consistent they would consider the If Fer the field and learn a lesson from them how to live without toiling or spinning.

To be consistent with the scriptures a christian should hate his father, mother, brothers and sisters, his wife and even his own life. Otherwise he cannot "be so dimpled." This is what the scriptures say and if they don't mean what they say how in the name of common sense are we to know what they mean.

Christ is alleged to have said that his mission on earth was to bring salvation or division, to set the fathers against the sons, the sons against the fathers and so with every member of the family and to tear up domestic peace in general. If this is true I do not wonder at his short stay among civilized people. He ought to have been put out of the way sooner, and thus stop the dangerous doctrine which has caused more sorrow and trouble than all else put together. The history of the past ages where faithful followers have tried to continue their master's mission attest the truthfulness of what I say.

They are facts that all the apologetics in the world cannot erase. They are menaces in the way of Christianity. Thinking people are not rushing headlong over these facts to get into the church. The church still succeeds in scaring a superstitious soul out of hell into heaven (but) but they are getting fewer every decade. There is a better way to travel the rough road of life than to be tormented forever with visions of devils, demons, hell and damnation with a very slim chance (one in a million) to escape.

I'm glad that I've found sweet liberty in doing good wherever possible without sparing hell and its impes because I don't believe all the fables taught by the church. I'm not worrying over the subject of a future life. The present one is all that I can take care of and in fact it is all the one that I really know anything about. There may be one, I don't know, but I feel sure that the more pleasant we make this one the better off we will be now and through eternity. We need to get in harmony with nature and evade every trace of the aged superstition which curses the world today.

We can't progress and adhere strictly to the christian doctrine, because to do so means that every thought must be brought into obedience to Christ. There would be no time to take up with inventions.

Just think of it. All the great achievements of the different arts with which our world is made great, is not the products of the christian religion as christians would have no belief, but just the opposite. If the great inventors had complied with the command to "preach the word" only they would not have had time to think over their objects of invention. So the world has progressed just to that extent, it is separated from the doctrines of the bible. No more of it for me.

Pleasure, happiness and the liberty of man, woman and child is my ideal in life and having done all I can towards the advancement of these I shall have nothing to regret when my last hour arrives.

J. MARSHALL SMITH
Woodlawn, Ala.

there, he had been dead four days, but, when Jesus "cried with a loud voice," he came forth, bound hand and foot. Jesus said, "Loose him and let him go." We have access to the external world by our five senses. The eye is the principal medium by which we gain all our knowledge, but the ear is also a medium of acquiring all our ideas of music and the beauties of harmony is sound. That these ideas which occupy the mind, just as furniture, pictures, etc., do in a house, are not of material substance, like the grey matter of the brain; is evident from the fact that they do not require space as do all material substances, for if they did, a man with a large education (collection of ideas) would necessarily have a large head in order to contain it, but such is not the case. Some our most learned men and most fluent speakers have small heads, and many men with large heads know but little. Then, if the mind is not as material substance like the brain, it follows that it is not fed with material like the body, which is perishable, and has to be replaced but it is fed with that which is indestructible, which has no beginning nor end. "There is no new thing under the sun" is a true saying. All the ideas or intentions of man have existed before, and are only manifested through the medium of love, like the love of father, mother, brothers and sisters, his wife and even his own life. Otherwise he cannot "be so dimpled."

This is what the scriptures say and if they did not mean what they say, then we must conclude that the "lost art" is not lost, but only hidden.

In the crisp and the glow of the morning, when blue shines the sky overhead, When the purple and rose of the dawn- ing Across the horizon is spread,

To feel the red blood in one's veins! Man's heart, in transcendental thanks-giving voice to exuberant strains!

The fresh wassered gold of the day- All weakness of yesterday scorning, Encouraged, he goes on his way. The fresh wassered gold of the day- Of labor for them near and dear! In sunshine inspiring and clear.

In the glow of the morning, springing With love all his eagerness firing- Sweet love for his home, wife, chil- dren The joy! The delight! Compensation! An adored soul on love-swept wings! Of heart-gushing home-songs he sings! -Lurana W. Sheldon, in New York Times.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

IN THE CRISP AND THE GLOW.

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To feel the red blood in one's veins!

Man's heart, in transcendental thanks-

Giving voice to exuberant strains!

The fresh wassered gold of the day- All weakness of yesterday scorning,

Encouraged, he goes on his way.

The fresh wassered gold of the day- Of labor for them near and dear!

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JESUS DID IT.

OF all the cheeky and pre-sumptuous acts to which the clergy stoop, that of declaring every progressive thought, invention, and discovery due to what they call Christian influence, is the boldest and most brazen. There is hardly a sermon preached but that they inculcate this idea. That civilization and the present state of development are the direct result of the advent of Jesus into the world; and that every advancement since is due to him, will be due to the preaching of his doctrines and his holy representatives among the children of men. They manage to fit every scientific fact to some saying of Jesus, although he was as ignorant of this department of learning as a caged lobster. He knew nothing at all of chemistry, of anatomy, of electricity, of mechanism, or of anything else practical and useful. He was a preacher of morals, more or less good or bad. Compare his system with that of Buddha or Confucius, and there is nothing left to his credit. Sum up his philosophy and general intelligence and compare it to that of Socrates or Aristotle, and the balance is to man's side. Let the reader view the whole work of Jesus and compare it with his own general information, and what man who reads this would exchange his knowledge of the world, or men, of philosophy, of invention, and discovery, for all that Jesus knew. Why, put Jesus to an examination of things useful and practical, and he would be a plaything in the hands of any bright school boy of twelve years. This man of doubtful existence and knowledge of men, is worshipped by his superiors in intelligence.

This is the result of the imposition practiced by the clergy upon the undeveloped and passive brain of childhood. Such condition could not otherwise exist. The brain which is left free to develop and to draw its conclusions from its own observations and experiences, can never descend to such worship. It is unsatisfactory that intelligence should reverence and worship inferiority and ignorance.

Blind worship and superstition have but one means of perpetuating themselves—and that is by their imprisonment of the most helpless and defenseless thing in the world—the trusting brain of the child. From the very beginning, children are taught that Jesus did everything, and that all to him we owe. They grow to maturity life firmly convinced that it is true. The brain is so totally deprived of the instinct of doubt that it is wholly incapacitated of the instinct to investigate. They grow to maturity manhood believing every word of the pastor's sermon. They never dream of questioning any statement that he utters. If their preacher says that all civilization depends upon the doctrines of Jesus, they accept the statement without thought or contradiction.

Observe how nearly every sermon is made up. The preacher takes up some Biblical text, then goes out among the works and accomplishments of human effort to illustrate it. He ransacks history and biography and travel and invention and science and modern discovery and applies all these to his text, and when he is through, he has everything that men now say and do attached and riveted to something Jesus said and did two thousand years ago. They credit to Jesus thoughts he never dreamed of. The fact of it is, they take their own best thoughts and put them into the mouth of Jesus.

No wonder that the world has blindly believed that Jesus was an intellectually great personage, when millions of men have studied and thought and given Jesus the credit of their efforts. Not satisfied with their own contrivances, they also attempt the theft of the learning and discoveries of non-Christians and put these also into his mouth.

They go out into the world of literature, philosophy, invention, and discovery, and grab every good thing that mankind says and does of itself, and credit it all to Jesus. His Bible teaches that the earth is flat and four-cornered. A skeptic thought differently, and at the peril of his life so exposed himself, and eventually discovered it to be round—and it is. Another skeptic discovered the telescope and proved the stars to be planets and great heavenly bodies instead of candles to light the earth at night—Jesus did it.

ANOTHER discovers and proves the law of gravitation—Jesus did it. ANOTHER demonstrates to the satisfaction of the scientific world the theory of NUCLEAR hypothesis—Jesus did it. Another demonstrates the speed of light and the distance of the stars—Jesus did it.

Another gives geological proofs of the uniformity of cosmic forces and the antiquity of the globe—Jesus did it. Another discovers the principle of evolution by natural process—Jesus did it. Another discovered and proved that electricity and lightning are the same—Jesus did it. Others have applied electricity to man's use and comfort—Jesus did it. Another wrote the Declaration of Independence, and with a few other skeptics framed the principles of this government—Jesus did it. Another saved the country and its moment of greatest peril and freed the bondmen whom Christianity had enslaved—Jesus did it.

AN ATHEIST, Deist, Agnostic, Jew or Skeptic of whatever class never did anything of himself. Why, bless your soul, JESUS DID IT.

J. B. W.

THE CREED OF BURNS.

(One of his suppressed poems.)

To gull the mob and keep them under,

The atheist told their tales of wonder,

A pious fraud, a holly blunder,

A rainbow sign,

An earthquake or a blast of thunder—

Were held divine.

By those who're faith to swallow doses;

A wondrous story nothing loses;

The dextrous feats ascribed to Moses

Are proofs as plain

O' slight' o' hand as Hormone

Bogus's Leggerdaine

Beware the stories of tradition,

Let sense give way to superstition—

The rayed magic competition,

The sacred fountain

Which can a' b'ridge by faith's votin'

Swell to a mountain.

A God o' mercy, just and good,

Holds forth as in an angry mood,

Drooning the world a' in a flood

To punish Hyphen,

And turning water into blood

Just like a demon.

He murdered thousands in a trice,

Made Egypt swarm with frogs and lice,

Had he sent sheep, and cows, and rice,

His hungry hoard

Might ilk a' one have got a slice,

And praised their Lord

W'll hee-poems rod in hand,

Like Mother Goose's magic wand,

Whom the elements command—

As legends run;

Divide the sea and burn the land,

Or stop the sun.

Their prodigies bombast, sur-

passes;

Like dykes the ocean stood in masses;

They'd flying prophets, speaking asses;

Beside a salty wife.

Their amorous Ghasts o'erame the lasses

Wha lived that life

Their Samson's strength lay in his hair,

Their jealous waters sterlin were,

The crucifix tear down

Showers of fire came through the air—

Like brimstone danders.

Saints lived in fire by virtue rare,

Like salamanders.

The Apostle Paul, by fancy's whim

Soared up to heaven in a dream,

And Satan brought him back 'twould seem,

So says himself'

But how could 'leek to heaven climb?

Who's chained in hell?

This damned old wily serpent Nick,

Was promised lang a mighty kick—

He turned the chase, and played the trick

W'! God's first born;

He got him scourged, nailed to a stick.

And crooned w' thorn.

First sleach the subject through

the piece,

'Tis fraught wi' blunders such as these,

That reverend priests their flocks may fleece

W'! weekly conscience;

Teach humble beings by degrees

To swallow nonsense.

The sovereign leaders of each nation,

Join hand in hand in close compaction,

To set God's kingdom up at auction.

A lumpin' bargain;

Drive silly mortals to distraction

W'! their damned jargon.

Yet moral truth shall gain the day,

Blazed by nature's glorious ray,

Anathema shall fly away,

W'! priests and deils;

Sound reason shall the scepter sway,

Hard at heels.

THE WORLD AS IT IS.

(By Quirin Bachler.)

Nature has punished Jesus Christ for insulting our Creator. The heaven of which Jesus preached was never found by him or any one else. Nature punished us people while living through inevitable misadventures and accidents. No dead man ever suffers. The soul without the body has no knowledge or pain. Teachers preach to people who make children say grace before meals insult our Creator.

It is not Nature's fault that so many people do not get what they need. It is the fault of false religion and their policies. The hospitals are full of such people. Animals do not insult our Creator because they were not taught false religion. If you want to learn something of the world or our Creator, read "Natureism." Price 25 cents. Address, Chicago, Ill., 2737 Madison St.

I REMEMBER.

(By A. B. White.)

I remember well The little church of brown Where in I've heard the preachers tell

Of golden harp and crown, That from God's hand we would receive

Upon the final day

If we would in his son believe

And his commands obey.

I remember, I remember well That this thought came to me When they would prate of sin and hell

How wise these men must be

To know that God a' will save

And see the others fall

When he to each the life breath gave

And is the head of all.

I remember, I remember well That soon there came a train Of stronger thoughts to longer dwell

Within my doubting brain,

Though friends deserted on and on

I struggled to the light Until I stood at reasons dawn And watched the day grow bright.

I remember, I remember well The battles that I had The gloom and shadows to dispel, Stories taught a lad.

I've oft been told I am a fool

By christians of my town

Because I go to reason's school

And shun their church of brown.

So let us place the torch of truth Where it may shed its rays To warn the minds of growing youth

Against superstitions ways

And soon we'll clear the trash and rot

The crucifix tear down

Showers of fire came through the air—

Like brimstone danders.

Saints lived in fire by virtue rare,

Like salamanders.

Their prodigies bombast, sur-

passes;

Like dykes the ocean stood in masses;

They'd flying prophets, speaking asses;

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'Tis fraught wi' blunders such as these,

That reverend priests their flocks may fleece

W'! weekly conscience;

Teach humble beings by degrees

To swallow nonsense.

THE LIMIT OF EARTHLY GLORY.

I wouldn't care what winds might blow. I never would complain again; Nor waste in a dinner strain, If Fortune had bequeathed to me The wad bestowed upon John D.

I'd never mind the bitter cold, Nor the heat in a summer strain,

No editor could make me sore, And I'd be as wise, by gum!

Miss H. Shaw says he's become

Stale, E. Kiser, in Chicago Record-Herald.

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SOME REFLECTIONS ON
NEW THOUGHTERS."

(By Channing Severance.)

Having recently read a critique of "New Thoughters, my spirit controls, Common Sense," impels me to offer a few remarks.

It is not to be denied that the New Grand or not which is being espoused by Elizabeth Town, Henry Harris Brown, William Waukeen Alanson, and many others, is large in volume and constantly increasing; but that fact does not prove high value, or that their ideas in the practical affairs of life work good results. For some reason, anything presented in a new or novel way, never fails to meet favor. If it happens to savor of superstition or high grade nonsense, in that species of New Thought which bestows upon man omnipotent powers, when exercised alone and apart from our physical bodies, we see a grand or nonsense that was never exceeded since the teachings of theology were established. When such extravagant claims are made and put forth about the power of thought, as these people indulge in, it is well to stop and ask what any of them have done in this grand world that is worth mentioning? Apart from宣传 their thoughts far money, I know of nothing any of them have done to develop industries and to produce real wealth. Not one of them deals in anything but theories and emotional gush; they are not head and hand workers, but head workers. They do nothing but think and express their thoughts, and if they had to get into the labor market and work for their grub, clothes and shelter or take up any productive enterprise that requires mind and muscle, they would be total failures, and as useless as a new-born child. This fact was demonstrated here not very long ago. There used to be a young woman in Chelsea, Mass., whose first name was Eva, and she wrote New Thought nonsense by the yard, telling other people how to fill empty pockets, and lots of other things. But when the big fire in Chelsea burned her out, and she migrated to Los Angeles, she got where the feed was hot, and in very close circumstances. Why? Because she was nothing but a visionary, with a head full of fanciful theories; incapable of working, and—she could not sell her New Thought writings. She could not sit in a Morris chair and work Brown's magic formula for getting dollars; neither can any of the others; and when there is no market for these thoughts, they are all bound to run short on dollars, and without them the is soon reduced to want in this cold and calculating world.

It was a mistake to class Elbert Hubbard among these people he did not belong with them, and I never stops over on the ones; he is a practical business man, and has established an industry that employs 500 people, where they make a good living with head and hand work. The genuine New Thinker would starve to death as a farmer, a mechanic, or a real worker in any department of industry. But oh, how glibly can write and tell others what to do to succeed!

Probably the most idiotic thing ever written until Henry Harris Brown wrote "Dollars Want Me," was Helen Wilman's "Conquest of Poverty," that vain, boastful, nonsensical combination of words. And right here is a good time to recall the fact that when she was denied the right to advertise and sell her thoughts through the mails, that moment her power to make money, to accumulate wealth that others had produced, ended.

Let us look at moment at Brown's fool theories and see what he affirms in "Dollars Want Me." "The world, being omniscient, if one is hard up and in need of money, Brown tells us how to get it. Instead of hunting a job and earning dollars, he is to use these affirmations:

"Dollars love me! Dollars want me! I am ready to use dollars, and they freely come to me to be used." He also says: "Take no limit as to the amount. Claim abundance." But strange to say, Brown don't always give his dollars that way. When here recently he was willing to receive a "silver offering" at the door of the hall he lectured in, and as some came in without digging up, he took them to task for it before giving his lecture. He declares that poverty is the main cause of the unrest that afflicts mankind,

and says if removed by right thinking all attendant evils will disappear. Nothing said about working to remove poverty, but the thing is away, and present is gone!" "Oppression is righteousness," he asserts, and if so, John D. Rockefeller must be both. Glory be! And such trash, such idiotic drivel, is New Thought! It would seem the limit it had been reached in human cruelty when people buy this pamphlet and believe in it; but as far as I can see there is no limit, and fools will appear when the fakir gets busy and take in anything he offers as long as the race exists, I guess. And Elizabeth Town endorses this wonderful discovery of her co-worker!

New Thought is surely a fine graft, and the success that attends it confirms Barnum's opinion long ago expressed. When the farmer can think his seed into the ground and harvest it in the same way, with no mechanical effort, and with his mind alone, and dollars make themselves without human hands to produce the raw material or create the form, then will be time enough to take New Thought seriously. Until then, let us laugh at the follies of mankind, as those who philosophize always do.

Los Angeles, Calif.

CHRISTIAN SECRETS.

Continued from Page One.)

the matter of mental exercise. When I look back at the enthusiasm that once possessed me in Christian work, I am filled with amazement at the simplicity of the ordinary human mind, and wonder that I ever got out of it. The experiences were anything but pleasant. All my relations and friends were Christians. My few acquaintances in the Free-thought movement were not of the school that appealed most to me. I was practically then in the cross benches, with few in local circles that I could look up to, and disciples were slow in adopting the (to them) new school, though quite old in the history of Rationalism. There were a few hold-outs of Bradlaugh, and though I have come to admire Bradlaugh's ability, integrity and service to humanity, I have never been a disciple of the particular school of thought in which he was such a prominent figure. I have never denied the existence of a power of powers superior to man, but to me, it came to the conclusion that the Bible guess at it was even a worse guess than any of the pagan mythologies. I have long ago given up the search for the nature of God or gods or the origin of man. I agree with Comte that the origins and causes are absolutely inaccessible and search for them unmeaning. The attempt to trace man back to the pollywog is as little practical value from my point of view as the Eden story. The history of man since the dawn of time is much more interesting to me. My belief with the energy of that they have dwelt in the minds of all those who came most directly under its influence by keeping them in ignorance of the history of the great races and nations of the world like the Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Chinese, Japanese and above all our own ancestors, who with all their faults and failings have always been as they are now a much superior people to the people whose dead ancestors we are asked to worship. The worship of ancestors may or may not be a very wise mental exercise but before we are asked to worship other people's ancestors in preference to our own it ought to be shown clearly that these other people's ancestors were superior to ours.

This very morning I got into an argument with an Irish Roman Catholic. I have known this man for about twenty years through all the changes that have taken place in me and we never quarreled until this morning. This morning we did quarrel and the cause was very simple and instructive. I reminded him of the old theological theory that God became a poor man to teach man humility. He said "that was a beautiful doctrine." But then I said the pope and the archbishop of Canterbury and all the other wealthy christians do not practice this theory. The only one in recent times that we have known to make an attempt at it is Golston.

I would have no objection to the pope and the archbishop of Canterbury following the example of their lord and master.

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